

Waterbury Hospital Improves Consults and Saves Hospital More Than \$2,200 Per Patient By Integrating TigerConnect With Its EHR



Integrated TigerConnect with Cerner EHR Platform



Test Results Are Received on Staffs' Mobile Devices



Spiked User Adoption



Improved Physician Consultation Process



Saved the Hospital More Than \$2,200 Per Patient

About the Organization

Waterbury Hospital is a 357-bed, mid-sized community and teaching hospital in Waterbury, Connecticut. Each year, they care for approximately 15,000 inpatients, treat more than 160,000 people in their outpatient medical clinics and handle more than 58,000 emergency department visits. Waterbury Hospital's guiding principle is "Caring Makes A World of Difference," and it is their mission to provide compassionate, high quality health care services through their family of care professionals and services.

Organization Quick Facts

- Waterbury Hospital is the second-largest employer in Waterbury, after the City of Waterbury itself, with over 2,000 employees.
- The hospital's Behavioral Health Center is one of the largest in the region and logs more than 27,000 outpatient visits per year.
- Orthopaedic Services at Waterbury Hospital is among the busiest joint replacement centers in the state, with more than 700 hip and knee replacements and revisions performed annually.

Communication Challenges

Waterbury Hospital deployed TigerConnect in early 2014 to provide their physicians with an efficient tool to communicate patient care in a HIPAA compliant manner. After deploying the solution, they saw the potential for TigerConnect to further improve their overall care coordination process by integrating it with their Cerner EHR platform. Staff desired a way to receive exam reports, test results and critical alerts on their mobile devices. They required an easy-to-integrate solution that would:



Seamlessly Integrate with their EHR Platform

Staff needed a way to receive critical alerts from their Cerner EHR platform directly to their mobile devices via TigerConnect.



Receive Lab, Imaging and Radiology Results In Real-Time

Staff wanted to receive patient test results in real-time and on their mobile devices without it disrupting their daily workflows.



We needed a way to notify physicians of important clinical information when they are not actively interacting with the electronic medical record. Our community physicians do not carry hospital issued beepers so we needed something more mobile and intuitive. We identified TigerConnect as an important application to improve clinical care as it incorporates asynchronous clinical alerts into our community physicians' mobile devices.



Integration

Waterbury Hospital uses Cerner's EHR solution to manage their patient files and data as well as aggregate clinical data. Because staff relies heavily on this data, they wanted a way to send lab and radiology results logged in Cerner to the TigerConnect app, versus sending the results via email, which can go unchecked for hours and sometimes even days. With automated results being delivered to their mobile devices, physicians could make faster and more informed decisions to treat their patients, helping improve overall patient outcomes.

A dropdown menu was created in Waterbury Hospital's EHR interface that would enable physicians ordering a lab or radiology test to indicate if they'd like to receive the results via TigerConnect. When a lab test is completed, the system would be able to securely send the test results to the physician's smart phone. Additionally, they created Cerner-based rules around the forwarded results. For example, if the doctor is not on call, he or she is automatically listed in TigerConnect as 'Do Not Disturb.' These rules helped them form an overall workflow for sending and receiving test results via TigerConnect.

Waterbury Hospital's Cerner EHR + TigerConnect Alerting Use Cases:

- Notification of potential septic condition
- MD notified when consult order is placed
- Notification of critical results
- Notification to primary care physician when patient is admitted
- Notification of results of stat labs

“ With TigerConnect, we're now able to instantly notify care teams of a request for consult, critical lab results, completion of imaging and other studies ordered stat, and vital sign thresholds indicative of a septic infection. With the application linked to our EHR, staff can better engage our community physicians and improve patient safety and throughput. ”

Results

After implementing TigerConnect and routing their EHR alerts to the TigerConnect Clinical Collaboration Platform, Waterbury's care coordination improved significantly. Physicians are now getting relevant information via TigerConnect to ensure timely action is taken on changing patient statuses. Additionally, coordinating care became significantly easier as TigerConnect provides staff with a unified communication tool across their entire physician network. With the support of TigerConnect, Waterbury Hospital has seen the following results:



Spiked User Adoption

After the integration, more physicians began using the TigerConnect app, helping spike adoption while also engaging the hospital's community of physicians in a compliant manner.



Improved Physician Consultation Process

Physicians are now notified instantly after a consult is placed. With test results being sent via TigerConnect, staff no longer has to rely solely on email notifications or phone calls, which was delaying Waterbury Hospital's care process up to three hours and longer.



Improved Consult Turnaround Time

The time from when a consult was ordered to the time it was transcribed was reduced from one day and 13 hours to just 16 hours – a decrease of 21 total hours.



Saved Hospital More Than \$2,200 Per Patient

With exam reports and test results now being sent via mobile, Waterbury was able to reduce a patient's length of stay by nearly two days, helping them save more than \$2,208 per patient.

Conclusion

With the ability to communicate and receive test results containing PHI through TigerConnect, Waterbury Hospital physicians are now able to connect and coordinate care with one another instantly. Their consult turnaround times have drastically decreased while overall workflow efficiency increased. Additionally, by utilizing TigerConnect integration capabilities, Waterbury Hospital has significantly improved user adoption, reduced patients' length of stay, and saved thousands of dollars.

About TigerConnect

As healthcare's largest provider of clinical communication solutions, TigerConnect helps physicians, nurses, and other staff communicate and collaborate more effectively, accelerating productivity, reducing costs, and improving patient outcomes. With more than 7,000 facilities, 99.99% uptime, and over 10 million messages processed each day, TigerConnect continually delivers advanced product innovations and integrates with critical hospital systems such as the EHR, nurse call, and scheduling solutions. The company's commitment to client success is reflected in its broad support organization that works directly with clients at every stage to streamline communication workflows and achieve the highest possible ROI.

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